

Testimony of Michael Merriweather, Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition
Presented at the December 5, 2007 meeting of the Michigan House of Representatives' Energy & Technology Committee

- We want:

- 5% annual energy efficiency increases between now and 2015 (the legislature is talking about 0.75% annual efficiency increases)**
- a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) of 30% by 2030**
- integrated resource planning that will take into account Michigan's abundant renewable energy resources and energy efficiency opportunities before claiming that new coal and nuclear plants are necessary**

-The Detroit metropolitan area lost some 44,000 advanced automotive and technology manufacturing jobs between 1998 and 2003,¹

-Around the country, Detroit continues to suffer from the images of economic desperation and crime that people associate with it. The Washington-based Congressional Quarterly recently named Detroit "America's most dangerous city," for what this is worth

-State legislators need to make a bold statement if they want to attract new jobs to this state, given deeply entrenched beliefs about the troubles of Michigan, and specifically Detroit

-Venture capitalists who met with Jennifer Granholm when she visited California recently to solicit investment in Michigan's industries told her that they "will look favorably on states with aggressive public policy initiatives favoring the growth of renewable energy sources."²

-Has been estimated that doubling the energy efficiency in Michigan can bring 9,000 new jobs and \$340 million in new wage income to this state by 2013³

-Perfect example of the power of green jobs, which are the kinds of jobs that can't be outsourced, since they involve the construction, maintenance, and retrofitting of buildings and power systems that must necessarily remain in Michigan

-Nowhere are green jobs needed more than in Detroit, where the effects of hitching economies to transient individual industries are now plain

-“Old horse can't win a new race”

¹ Detroit News, October 14, 2005, <http://www.detnews.com/2005/technology/0510/14/C01-348495.htm>.

² Detroit Free Press, November 27, 2007,
<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071127/COL06/711270392/1081>

³ John Laitner and Martin Kushler, "More Jobs and Greater Total Wage Income: The Economic Benefits of an Efficiency-Led Clean Energy Strategy to Meet Growing Electricity Needs in Michigan," American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, November 2007.

-Climate science demands what we are requesting, but so does the city of Detroit, and the underprivileged all across Michigan

- We want:

-5% annual energy efficiency increases between now and 2015 (the legislature is talking about 0.75% annual efficiency increases)

-a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) of 30% by 2030

-integrated resource planning that will take into account Michigan's abundant renewable energy resources and energy efficiency opportunities before claiming that new coal and nuclear plants are necessary